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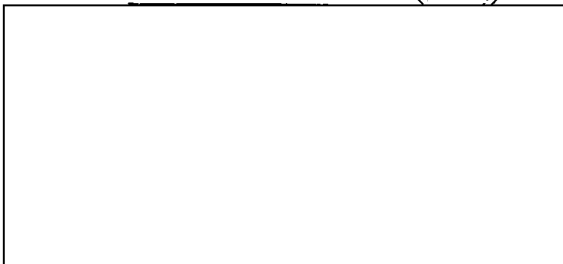
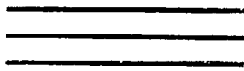
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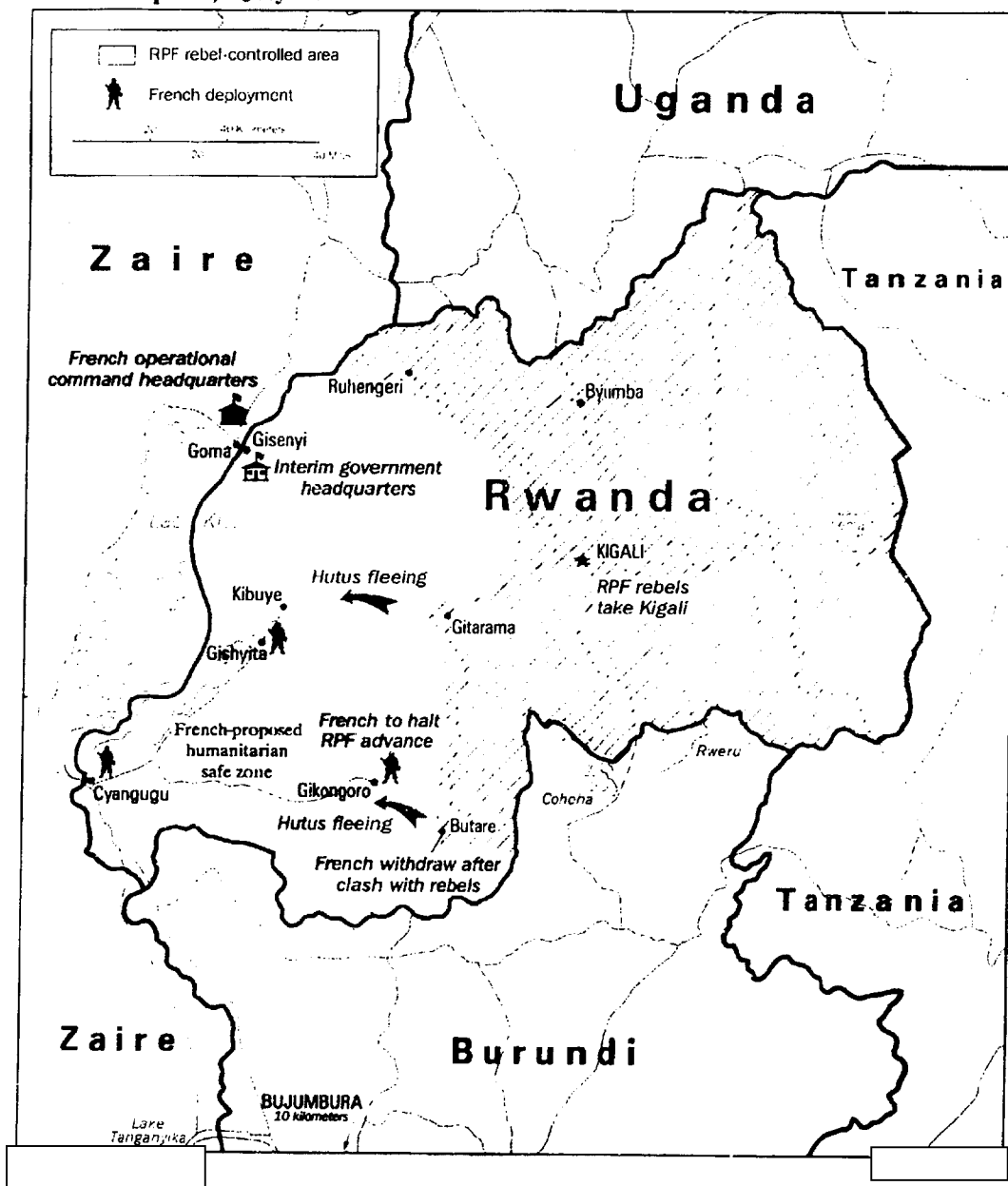
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Situation Update, 4 July 1994

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Developments

RWANDA:

Increased Prospects for French, RPF Confrontation

Ugandan President Museveni publicly welcomed the Rwandan Patriotic Front's capture of Kigali and Butare yesterday as a major step toward forming a broad-based government. According to press reports, government troops fleeing Butare have taken safe haven behind French lines, leaving the French less than 35 km from the advancing rebel forces. Hundreds of thousands of Hutus are fleeing RPF advances toward western Rwanda.

French troops are stretched thin and are not prepared to protect or feed the civilians pouring into their areas of control. The battlelines remain too dangerous for international aid workers to operate.

According to press reports, French forces were sent to Gikongoro yesterday and were ordered to prevent the RPF, which has perhaps 2,000 troops approaching Gikongoro, from advancing farther to the west.

— Paris has also asked the UN to designate southwestern Rwanda as a safety zone.

The rebels have accused the French of exceeding their humanitarian mandate and supporting the Hutu interim government. An RPF spokesman said the rebels will continue to pursue their military objectives despite the presence of French troops.

— Another RPF official told that the French are flying over Kigali trying to pinpoint RPF military positions for an attack on rebel troops.

French forces pulled back from Butare on Saturday when confronted by the RPF, and the rebels will almost certainly test French resolve again at Gikongoro. If the French hold their ground, the RPF may switch to guerrilla tactics to force them back to Zaire. Rwanda is a high-risk venture for Prime Minister Balladur and the center-right government. If a foreign policy disaster appears to be in the making, the French Government will probably put added pressure on the international community—both through the UN and in the Western European Union—to move swiftly in bringing in additional outside help in the form of troops or logistic support.

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